

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

March 29, 2007

Maricopa Association of Governments Office
302 North First Avenue, Suite 200, Saguaro Room
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Phoenix: Tom Callow, Chairman
ADOT: Perry Powell for Dan Lance
Avondale: David Fitzhugh
Buckeye: Scott Lowe for Steven Borst
Chandler: Mike Normand for Patrice Kraus
El Mirage: Lance Calvert for George Flores
Fountain Hills: Randy Harrel
*Gila Bend: Lynn Farmer
Gilbert: Tami Ryall
Glendale: Bob Darr for Terry Johnson
Goodyear: Cato Esquivel
*Guadalupe: Jim Ricker

*Litchfield Park: Mike Cartsonis
Maricopa County: John Hauskins
Mesa: Jim Huling for Mike James
*Paradise Valley: Robert M. Cicarelli
Peoria: Chris Kmetty for David Moody
Queen Creek: Mark Young
RPTA: Bryan Jungwirth
Scottsdale: Mary O'Connor
Surprise: Stephanie Wilson for Randy Overmyer
Tempe: Carlos De Leon
*Wickenburg: Shane Dille
Valley Metro Rail: John Farry

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ATTENDING

*Regional Bicycle Task Force: Randi Alcott, RPTA
*Street Committee: Darryl Crossman, City of Litchfield Park

*Pedestrian Working Group: Eric Iwersen, City of Tempe
ITS Committee: Alan Sanderson

* Members neither present nor represented by proxy. + - Attended by Videoconference
- Attended by Audioconference

OTHERS PRESENT

Roger Herzog, MAG
Stephen Tate, MAG
Eileen Yazzie, MAG
Kevin Wallace, MAG
Eric Anderson, MAG
Matthew Clark, MAG
Kwi-Kang Sung, ADOT

Brent Stoddard, City of Glendale
Lynn Timmons, City of Phoenix
Dave Meinhart, City of Scottsdale
Wulf Grote, Valley Metro Rail
Chris Plumb, MCDOT
Kelly Ash, PBS&J

1. Call to Order

Mr. Tom Callow called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

2. Approval of February 22, 2007 Draft Minutes

Mr. Callow asked if there were any changes or amendments to the meeting minutes. Mr. Mark Young moved the approval of the February 22, 2007 draft minutes. Mr. Carlos De Leon seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Call to the Audience

Mr. Callow indicated that he had not received any requests to speak cards from the audience, and moved to the next item on the agenda.

4. Transportation Director's Report

Mr. Callow introduced Mr. Eric Anderson, MAG Transportation Director, to provide the Transportation Director's report. Mr. Anderson indicated that regional half-cent sales tax collections were 10.1 percent higher for February, 2007 then for February, 2006 and is welcomed as the growth rate in sales tax collection has been declining. Sales tax collections for the year-to-date are, however, somewhat below forecasted revenue collections. The forecast indicates that 2007 revenue collections will increase by 8.1 percent over 2006 revenue collections, while year-to-date collections for 2007 are only 7.0 percent above 2006 revenue collections.

Mr. Anderson stated that ADOT is working diligently to complete a report in response to the Governor's executive order on transit. MAG staff has seen the first draft and felt that ADOT has done a good job in categorizing projects.

The Regional Council has approved a consultant contract to perform a statewide reconnaissance study in coordination with ADOT and the other Councils of Government and Metropolitan Planning Organizations in the state. The study will develop a sketch modeling tool to help ADOT forecast travel demand on the state highway system and will address congestion and freight movement issues.

The Regional Council also approved MAG staff to move ahead with the Hidden Valley Study.

The first round of the freeway noise mitigation program has been completed leaving approximately \$20 million available for additional noise mitigation projects. MAG will develop a solicitation for added noise mitigation projects and the issue will be addressed at the next meeting of the Transportation Review Committee.

Next Thursday, April 6, 2007, MAG and ADOT will hold a joint press conference to discuss efforts to control litter on freeways. Regional half-cent funding has been made available to help address litter control issues.

Mr. Callow complemented ADOT on the reduced litter on freeways. He noted that as one typically expects not to see litter on freeways, its absence goes unnoticed and successful efforts to control it are ignored. Mr. Callow also noted that the first light rail vehicle was powered up earlier that morning, and that METRO currently had 13 vehicles at the maintenance yard.

5. Approval of Consent Agenda

Mr. Callow indicated that there were two items on the Consent Agenda, consisting of item #6 (Mid-Phase Public Input Opportunity) and item #7 (ADOT Red Letter Process). Mr. Callow asked if any members had questions on these items. Hearing none, Mr. Callow asked if there was a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Mary O'Connor moved approval of the consent agenda, and Mr. John Hauskins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Proposed Administrative Adjustment to the FY 2007-2011 MAG Transportation Improvement Program for an ITS Project

Mr. Callow introduced Ms. Eileen Yazzie, MAG Transportation Programming Manager, to brief the Committee. It was indicated that since the mailing of the meeting packet that two additional requests for administrative adjustments had come to light. The first, was a Maricopa County request to add a bridge rehabilitation project on Old US 60 in the TIP. The second addition, was to revise the project limits on a federally funded Scottsdale bicycle project in accord with limits adjustments recommended by the MAG Regional Bicycle Task Force at their March meeting.

Mr. Jim Huling moved that the adjustments for the three projects as outlined by Ms. Yazzie be recommend to the MAG Management Committee for their approval and recommendation to the Regional Council. Ms. Mary O'Connor seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Interim Closeout of the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2007 MAG Federally Funded Program

Mr. Callow introduced Ms. Yazzie to brief the Committee. As of the date of the meeting, twenty-five requests to defer projects and a request from Peoria to replace MAG federal funding with local funding for its 83rd Avenue at Union Hills project have been received. Assuming approval of all requests, the amount of MAG federal funds programmed for FY 2007 will decline by \$39.2 million.

The MAG estimate of the amount of federal funds and obligation authority (OA) available in FY 2007 for the closeout assumes that MAG will receive the same level of funding and OA as achieved in FY 2006. This assumption is rather conservative and is likely to be adjusted upwards once new information is released by the US Department of Transportation.

Exclusive of the freeway and transit life-cycle programs and projects that are expected to be obligated by MAG member agencies in FY 2007, approximately \$21.5 million in MAG federal funds is available. Of this amount, \$19 million must be set aside to be carried over for Arterial Life-Cycle Program projects that will be deferred into FY 2008. This leaves only \$2.5 million available for re-programming in the closeout.

Currently, Valley Metro Rail has an outstanding claim for \$10 million. Peoria also has a claim for the funds it is releasing from its 83rd Avenue project.

Chairman Callow asked how the estimate of deferred funding related to the estimate of funds available for the closeout. Ms. Yazzie indicated that they were unrelated.

Mr. Anderson elaborated on the closeout estimate and process. It was noted that in prior years, MAG had pursued a programming process that assumed a large rollover of MAG federally funded projects from year to year and allowed member agencies to add new projects using funding made available from the rollovers. This process was reasonable given a climate of increasing federal funding and a federal project development process that tended to delay the obligation of projects.

Now, however, the expectation is that the growth in federal funding will decline and that improvements to the development process will make it less likely that projects will need to be deferred. As a result, MAG cannot continue the old process without risking a significant over commitment of MAG federal funds. For example, if a large number of projects had not deferred this year, MAG would be over programmed by approximately 17 million for FY 2007.

A discussion ensued between Mr. Anderson and Mr. Farry. It was noted that redistributed obligation authority could be considered to be new money and that this money could be used to at least partially meet the Valley Metro Rail need for \$10 million in MAG federal funding.

8. Draft FY 2008-2012 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP - Listing of Projects)

Mr. Callow introduced Ms. Yazzie to brief the Committee. Ms. Yazzie indicated that a draft FY 2008-2012 MAG Transportation Improvement Program was available and distributed a handout – Errata Sheet 2 – listing changes that had been received for the draft TIP.

A brief discussion ensued. It was suggested that by Ms. Tami Ryall that the term “Errata” be changed. Both Mr. Anderson and Ms. Yazzie concurred with the suggestion.

Ms. Ryall moved that the Committee recommend approval of the Draft FY 2008-2012 MAG TIP to undergo an air quality conformity analysis. Mr. Hauskins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Conformity Analysis of the Draft MAG Regional Transportation Plan - 2007 Update

Mr. Roger Herzog briefed the Committee. Each year MAG updates the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). This year’s update brings the RTP into compliance with new planning and consultation requirements identified in the Safe Accountable Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).

It also updates life-cycle programs for freeways, streets and transits and incorporates new funding made available through the State to accelerate freeway projects. These changes include the refinement of some Mesa arterial street projects, the addition of some Bus Rapid Transit routes and the advancement of freeway projects on Interstate 17, Interstate 10, State Route 101, and State Route 303.

A chart showing the modal distribution of regional funding was show. The chart indicated that approximately 60 percent of regional funding is allocated for freeway projects, while 10 percent is allocated for arterial street projects and 30 percent is allocated for transit projects. It was

noted that cost and revenue estimates continue to be updated and that significant changes in cost estimates are likely as projects move into design.

A consultation and approval schedule was presented. It indicated that in March the draft update would be reviewed by the Management Committee; in April the Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee would review the draft; in May a conformity analysis would be conducted and is expected to be completed in June. Finally, in July, it is anticipated that the Regional Council will approve the draft.

Ms. O'Connor moved to recommend the Draft MAG Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) - 2007 Update for air quality conformity analysis. Mr. Carlos De Leon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Update and Status of Valley Metro Rail Planning Activities

Mr. Callow introduced Mr. Wulf Grote, METRO Project Development Director, to brief the Committee concerning ongoing METRO planning activities and the status of the light rail system. It was noted that the planned transit system included 57 miles of light rail transit (LRT). Approximately 20 miles of this system are scheduled to be opened by the end of 2008.

Currently, VMR is conducting a number of studies. The first, the LRT Configuration Study will examine the operation of the planned LRT and on how LRT service will integrate with planned bus service. In particular it will address bus route and transfer options, possible changes due to the redevelopment of downtown Phoenix and congestion and mitigation impacts from the LRT in the Central Avenue corridor, options for express service and the need for satellite maintenance facilities.

A second study focuses on the northwest extension of the LRT. It is addressing coordination issues arising from work on Interstate 17, contracting options that affect the availability of federal funds and possible northwest extensions of the LRT. Based on this study, the City of Phoenix, on March 16, 2007, has already decided not to use federal funding to construct a 3.2 mile section of the LRT from on 19th Avenue from Montebello Street to Dunlap Street. It is anticipated that federal funding may be used for the extension of the LRT northwest of Dunlap Street.

Additional studies will be conducted in Mesa, Tempe and along Interstate 10 in the West Valley. These studies will help establish the eligibility of these routes for federal funding, refine the location of planned LRT facilities and review possible transit alternatives to the LRT along these routes.

Mr. Grote concluded his presentation by noting that the City of Chandler recently joined the METRO organization, bringing their membership to five cities. He then indicated that METRO would be happy to include other communities in their studies, if there is an interest.

Mr. John Farry noted that Mr. Grote was asked to present this information to the Committee because the METRO Board recently adopted procedures that call for periodic updates to MAG and RPTA on their studies.

11. Member Agency Update

Mr. Callow asked members of the Committee whether they would like to provide updates on activities in their communities. No member provided an update.

12. Next Meeting Date

The next regular TRC meeting will be scheduled Thursday, April 26, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. in the MAG Office, Saguaro Room

The meeting concluded at 11:13 a.m.